

August 26, 2013

The Honorable Raymond A. Jackson  
United States District Court  
600 Granby Street, Room 400  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Judge Jackson,

I am writing to you on behalf of my precious son, Brandon Woodard. I sit here crying profusely as I try to write this letter to you.

All of my prayers were answered the day my son was born. He has brought joy into my life like no other. He has been a wonderful son, always kind, thoughtful, considerate and very giving of his time and energy.

He has always been and always will be my "Best Friend". We have been "sidekicks" all of his life, and I cannot imagine a better  
(Page 1)

person to spend my time with, it breaks my heart to think about us being separated, especially the way it is going to happen.

He Is My Life.

This summer, the summer of 2013, has been like a Slow Death for me, waiting until September 30<sup>th</sup> for Braddon to be sentenced. I'm sixty-seven years old and suffering from high blood pressure, high cholesterol, anxiety, depression, and panic attacks, I cry all the time, can't sleep, and am so worried about everything that's to come. I also have cataracts on my eyes.

The stress before, during and after the trial has taken a toll on my health. My life has been turned upside down as a

(Page 2)

Case 2:12-cr-00105-RAJ-DEM Document 566-2 Filed 09/23/13 Page 47 of 50889  
result of these tragic circumstances regarding  
my son and husband.

Just weeks before the trial started, I  
had to have surgery on my left breast.

I'm so scared for all of us! Brandon is  
my only child, he's young, only thirty-  
seven years old and he and his father,  
Ed, are my only family. I do have one  
estranged/very distant cousin, whom I  
never see. I will be all alone once  
they are gone - This terrifies me.

The trial and the preceding time  
before, has been the most devastating,  
painful, and hurtful experience of my  
life.

Thinking about having to live each  
(Page 3)

day without Brandon is killing me! I  
Can't focus or think about anything else.  
I'm sick about the thought of having  
my son serve time in prison.

Brandon and I spend a lot of time  
together on a daily basis, calling each other  
four or five times a day and he is here  
for dinner most nights.

### "Some History on Brandon"

- He graduated from Norfolk Academy (in 1995) with Honors
- A Graduate from The College of William and Mary (1999)
- A Graduate from The University of Baltimore School of Law (2003).
- After his freshman year at William and Mary (1996) he served as an Intern in Washington, D.C. in Congressman Pickett's office on Capitol Hill as well as an Intern for Congressman Rick Boncher. He enjoyed conducting tours of the Capitol and researching legislative issues. (Page 4)

- While attending William & Mary, he was Co-founder & Co-president of the Operation Smile Club, served on the Judicial Council on the Disciplinary Board, Treasurer of the Sophomore Class, & served on the University Center Activities Board. Also, he was first year Student Council Representative. He also served as a Mediator in the office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division for the State of Maryland.
- While attending law school during the day, he worked nights at Ceres Marine Terminals, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Brandon has a three year old son, "G[REDACTED]" who he would like to spend time with & be involved in his life, watching him grow up.
- He was planning to marry his fiancée "Dawn" & help raise her five year old daughter (D[REDACTED]) that she is in the process of legally adopting & has had sole physical custody of, since D[REDACTED] was five months old.

Brandon grew up in a very average household. We have lived in the

same two-story, Cape Cod, vinyl-sided home since 1973, for forty years. Neither my husband, myself, nor Brandon came from a privileged background. We struggled to provide him with a good, quality education, private school, college, & law school. His education was expensive, & we received no help financially from anyone.

You may have the impression that Brandon grew up with a "Silver Spoon" in his mouth, but he certainly did not. When Brandon entered first grade, in 1982, my husband's salary was \$32,000.

In 1990 it was \$51,000. I have always been a "stay-at-home" Mom, involved in his school as a volunteer, as well as "Team Mother" for all of the sports that he played.

(Page 6)

We have always lived a very conservative life style, not an elaborate/or extravagant one at all.

For Brandon's entire life, Brandon's Father, Ed Woodard, has been very demanding and controlling of Brandon.

Problems maintaining payments on the Alabama, Portsmouth + Lexington Properties were becoming a problem. Brandon & his two business partners (Dennis Norton + Jed Sherman) contemplated Bankruptcy to which his father was in opposition. This was an ongoing problem with his Dad. Brandon was working at the Mortgage Company at the time, & his

Had Constantly Threatened Brandon  
that he would no longer "Be His Son"  
& that he would "Fire" him if  
he filed for Bankruptcy. The Bank &  
its success has always been his  
Father's life. Brandon came to me  
after during those times very distressed  
by the pressure he felt from his Dad.

Brandon is a very special & intelligent  
young man with so many positive  
attributes. He has served on the Board  
of Directors for the local American  
Diabetes Assoc, on the Board for the  
Virginia Stage Company, as well as  
the Chamber of Commerce & has been  
active in our community & his church  
as well.



I have always found my son to be honest, trustworthy & of good character, as well as a wonderful son. He has a lot to offer society.

I don't know how I will survive if Brandon is taken away from me. Is there another option other than prison? If sending him to prison is the Court's decision, may I please ask that you recommend sending him to "Butner" in North Carolina? I believe Butner is close enough for me to visit him there. I do not fly, & can't see well enough to drive at night. Hopefully, my husband could go there as well. Visiting both my (Page 9)

husband & son in two different places will be extremely difficult & nearly impossible for me for many reasons.

The idea of Brandon going to Prison is horrifying enough, but it would break my heart as well if he were not allowed to Self-Report.

I am asking The Court to please show leniency when sentencing Braddon.

"This Is His Life."

Thank you so much for considering this request.

Most Sincerely,  
Sharon W. Woodard  
Mother of Troy Braddon Woodard

(Page 10)